

OREGON FFA ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Approved by The Oregon FFA Delegates – March 2022

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Oregon FFA Association, a chartered member of the National FFA Organization. Recognized units of the Oregon FFA Association may officially use the letters “FFA” and/or the words “Future Farmers of America” to designate the Organization, State Association, their units and/or members.

ARTICLE II. AIMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION

The objects of the organization shall be consistent with Section 3 of the Organization’s federal charter, Public Law 116-7 (formerly Public Laws 105-225 and 81-740). The National Organization and the State Association shall cooperate with national and state government agencies and officials for Career & Technical Education in accomplishing the following objectives:

1. Oregon FFA and National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.
2. To be an integral component of instruction in agricultural education, including without limitation, agriculture, food, and natural resources. As such, the organization shall be intra-curricular to the agricultural education program, and will work with contextual classroom/laboratory instruction and work-based experiential learning in furtherance of a complete and comprehensive agricultural education program;
3. To be an integral component in agricultural education, to prepare students for successful entry into productive careers in agriculture, food, and natural resources, or connect students to relevant postsecondary educational pathways, focusing on the complete delivery of classroom and laboratory instruction, work-based experiential learning and leadership development;
4. To be a resource and support organization that does not select, control or supervise local chapter or individual member activities. The organization will develop educational materials, programs, services, and events as a service to the local agricultural education programs;
5. To see and promote inclusion and diversity in its membership, leadership and staff to reflect the organizations belief in the value of all human beings;
6. To create, foster, and assist local chapters in state-approved agricultural education programs;
7. To build character and develop competent and assertive agricultural leadership;
8. To promote the intelligent choice and establishment of a career in agriculture, food, and natural resources;

9. To cooperate with others, including national and state boards and officials for career and technical education, in accomplishing the foregoing purposes;
10. To provide agriculture-related programs and activities which will develop occupational pride, responsibility, leadership, character, scholarship, citizenship, patriotism, thrift, and which will improve the economic, environmental, recreational, and human resources of the community;
11. To encourage and recognize achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs, scholarship, leadership, and other individual and group activities by providing awards to deserving members and chapters;
12. To provide agriculture-related programs and activities which support the state mandated diploma requirements;
13. To engage in other activities, consistent with these purposes, determined by the governing body to be for the best interests of the organization.

ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATION

SECTION A.

The Oregon FFA Association is a state organization of, by, and for students enrolled in agricultural education programs. It shall consist of a minimum of four chartered local chapters and an active membership of not less than 125 members. (More than one chapter may be chartered in a school when deemed appropriate by the State Executive Committee.)

SECTION B.

Chapters of the Oregon FFA Association shall be chartered only in such schools where recognized systematic instruction in agricultural education is offered under the federal Career & Technical Education legislation. Such chapters shall operate as an integral part of the instructional program of agricultural education.

SECTION C.

Students enrolled in agricultural education may meet at State Convention, adopt a constitution, which shall not conflict with that of the National Organization, elect officers, develop a Program of Activities, and apply to the National Organization for a state association charter. Upon receipt of a charter from the National Organization, the state association shall be part of the National FFA Organization and shall be empowered to charter local chapters.

ARTICLE IV. PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING STANDING OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

A local chapter shall be considered to be in good standing with the Oregon FFA Association according to the membership policy.

1. All annual state and national dues have been paid.
2. All reports have been submitted as required by the State Association.
3. Provisions of the chapter constitution do not conflict with the State or National FFA Constitutions and chapter activities are in harmony with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.

4. The Official Chapter Advisor(s) shall be the Agriculture Teacher(s) licensed in Agricultural Education and employed by the school district where the FFA chapter resides. The school district's licensed agriculture instructor(s) shall teach state approved Agriculture Education courses. Supervision of members at all FFA Activities shall be under the direct control of the Chapter Advisor(s) as determined by the Board of Directors
5. The Board of Directors of the Oregon FFA Association shall have power to suspend the charter of any chapter that violates the State or National FFA Constitution and Bylaws.
6. In the event a local department of agricultural education is discontinued, its chartered FFA chapter may officially operate for a period not to exceed three years (36 months) from date of the discontinuance, provided supervision is given by a person having the approval of the local school administrator and the State FFA Advisor / State FFA Executive Secretary.
7. Oregon FFA Association will approve FFA Charters to private schools if they meet and maintain program approval status with program approval being renewed every 3 years (as initiated by the current chapter advisor).

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A.

Membership in the Oregon FFA Association shall be of two kinds: (1) Student; (2) Adult.

SECTION B.

To be eligible for student membership in a chartered FFA chapter, a student must be enrolled in a secondary agricultural education program. Secondary agriculture education programs shall be considered approved programs grades 7-12.

SECTION C.

Adult Membership shall be open to former student members, honorary degree recipients, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of FFA members and others interested in and supportive of the FFA.

ARTICLE VI. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES

SECTION A.

There shall be five degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These are the Discovery FFA Degree, the Greenhand FFA Degree, the Chapter FFA Degree, the State FFA Degree, and the American FFA Degree. The National Organization shall set the minimum qualifications for each degree. All degrees will be awarded as outlined in the Oregon FFA Bylaws ARTICLE XII. Degree Requirements and Eligibility.

SECTION B.

There shall be four state star awards being: Star Farmer, Star in Agribusiness, Star in Agriscience, and Star in Agricultural Placement. Procedures will be outlined in the Oregon FFA Bylaws ARTICLE XIV. Star Award Requirements and Eligibility.

SECTION C.

Honorary FFA Degrees - Farmers, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agricultural education, business people,

and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA, and who have rendered outstanding service, may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting or convention.

The Honorary FFA Degree shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA degree in the local chapter, Honorary District FFA Degree at the district level, Honorary State FFA Degree in the State Association, and the Honorary American FFA Degree in the National Organization. All Honorary FFA Degree recipients will be considered adult members as part of their Honorary FFA Degree.

ARTICLE VII. EMBLEMS

SECTION A.

The official emblem of the FFA Association shall include five symbols, namely: the plow, representing the labor and tillage of the soil; the owl, representing wisdom; the rising sun, representing progress; a cross-section of an ear of corn, representing common agricultural interests; and an American eagle surmounting the cross-section of the ear of corn, representing the national scope of the organization. The emblem shall also include the letters, "FFA" and the words, "Agricultural Education."

SECTION B.

The emblem shall be uniform in all State Associations and recognized units thereof. All members shall be entitled to display the emblem.

SECTION C.

Greenhand FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official bronze emblem pin, Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official silver emblem pin, State FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm, and American FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem key.

SECTION D.

Honorary Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear either the official silver or gold emblem pin, Honorary State FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm, and Honorary American FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem key.

ARTICLE VIII. THE STATE ADVISOR AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SECTION A.

The advisor of a local district shall elect the district advisor as outlined by the Board policy. The district advisor will be a member of the State Board of Directors and State Executive Committee.

SECTION B.

The State Specialist for Agriculture and Natural Resource Education at the Oregon Department of Education shall be the State FFA Advisor. The State Advisor is an ex-officio member of all committees and of the Board of Directors.

SECTION C.

The State Executive Secretary is an ex-officio member of all committees and the Board of Directors. The State Executive Secretary shall serve as the Secretary for all Board of Director meetings.

ARTICLE IX. STATE, DISTRICT, AND CHAPTER OFFICERS

SECTION A.

The officers of the State FFA Association shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. All State FFA Officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates present at any regular convention of the State Association. A state officer shall hold the State FFA Degree and must be an active member for the duration of their term of office. A state officer must have a 2.5 cumulative high school GPA at time of application. Procedures for election of state officers shall be found in the Bylaws.

SECTION B.

1. The officers of the State FFA Districts shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Other offices may be elected as deemed appropriate by the District FFA Advisor and District governing body.
2. The district presidents are elected by their respective districts prior to the conclusion of the state convention. A district president must hold at least the Chapter FFA Degree. The District president will be an official member of the State Executive Committee.

SECTION C.

1. The officers of an FFA chapter shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the local advisor(s) and/or governing body.

ARTICLE X. MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

SECTION A.

The Oregon FFA Association is entitled to send a minimum of two official delegates from its active membership to the National FFA Convention. The state president and the vice president will be designated as the chair and vice chair of the delegation. Additional delegates as authorized by National FFA shall also serve as official delegates.

SECTION B.

A state convention of Oregon FFA Association shall be held annually prior to the national convention at a time and place to be determined by the State Executive Committee, except in case of an extreme emergency declared by the Board of Directors.

SECTION C.

Each local chapter is entitled to send official delegates from its active membership to the state convention, such delegates to be selected as provided in the local chapter constitution and bylaws. Two official delegates from at least 51 percent of the local chartered chapters will constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XI. COMMITTEES

SECTION A.

1. The governing body of the Oregon FFA Association, which shall exercise the powers granted in section 4 of Public Law 116-7, shall be a Board of Directors composed of (a) the State Specialist of Agricultural and Natural Resources Education, who shall be ex-officio; (b) one district advisor (licensed agricultural instructor) from each of the FFA districts in the state; (c) up to two state staff members in the Agricultural Education Service who shall be ex-officio, one of which will serve as secretary; (d) one representative from Oregon FFA Alumni; (e) one representative from Oregon FFA Foundation; (f) one representative from Oregon State University Agricultural Education Department

2. The term of office of members on the Board and the methods of selection of such members, other than the ex-officio members, are prescribed in the bylaws.
3. The Oregon FFA Association will indemnify its officers and Board of Directors to the fullest extent allowed by Oregon law.

SECTION B.

1. The voting members of the Executive committee of the Oregon FFA Association shall consist of: The Board of Directors, elected state officers, and a district president from each state FFA district. Ex-officio members shall be the President of the Oregon Agriculture Teachers Association (OATA) or their representative from the OATA Executive Committee, and a member of the Oregon State University Collegiate FFA Chapter.
2. The executive committee will be chaired by the State FFA President
3. The executive committee shall meet at least three (3) times a year or as called by the State Executive Secretary and/or State FFA Advisor. The executive committee may establish policy, rules and eligibility for the State FFA Association.

ARTICLE XII. DUES

SECTION A.

Annual membership dues of the National FFA Organization shall be established by a majority vote of the delegates at the national convention. The National FFA Board of Directors shall submit its recommendation concerning dues to each State Association at least forty-five days prior to the National FFA Convention.

SECTION B.

The membership year of the National FFA Organization shall be from August 1 to July 31.

SECTION C.

Annual membership dues of a State FFA Association shall be established by a majority vote of the delegates at the State FFA Convention. The State FFA Association will send to the Oregon FFA Foundation a fee from membership dues of 5% of dues income.

SECTION D.

The annual membership dues of a chapter shall be established by a majority vote of the members at a regular chapter meeting.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

SECTION A.

Proposed amendments to the National FFA Constitution and Bylaws may be submitted by a State FFA Association, the Board of National FFA Officers, or the National FFA Board of Directors. Proposed amendments from a State FFA Association must be submitted in accordance with the National FFA policy.

SECTION B.

Proposed amendments to the State FFA Constitution and Bylaws may be submitted by a local Chapter, FFA District, State Officers, State Staff, State Executive Committee, or Board of Directors. Proposed amendments from a local chapter must be submitted in writing to the State FFA Association before the January Executive Meeting of the Oregon FFA Association. A proposed amendment to the state constitution must be approved at the State Executive Committee January

meeting prior to the next State FFA Convention. All approved proposed amendments must be submitted by the State FFA Executive Secretary to the local chapters at least 30 days prior to the next State FFA Convention. All amendment(s) (approved at January Executive Meeting) to the state constitution may be adopted at any state convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present, provided they represent a quorum.